

From that original group of 22 sprang forth a movement which now boasts over 5 million members in this country alone, and continues to grow each year. In my home state of Minnesota, the Viking Council of the Boy Scouts of America serves over 57,000 youths between the ages of 5 and 20, making it the 21st largest of the 335 Boy Scout Councils in this country.

Participation in the Boy Scouts of America gives young people a sense of self-worth and satisfaction that is the product of setting and accomplishing goals, and being a part of a winning team. Such experiences cultivate discipline and a sense of responsibility that are assets for life.

By cooperating with peers to achieve a common end, Scouts learn valuable lessons in leadership. Countless civic, professional, and community leaders throughout our Nation were involved in the Boy Scouts of America as youths, including 302 members of the 104th Congress.

Through programs like the "Urban Scouting Emphasis," which has over 4,300 participants in urban Minneapolis, the Boy Scouts of America is bringing its valuable life lessons to inner city youth who are particularly at risk of falling victim to the entrapments of the streets. The Boy Scouts of America offers a place where young people can gain a sense of belonging and loyalty that they may otherwise seek to find in street gangs. Furthermore, the importance of programs like "Urban Emphasis" is amplified when considering the annual cost per youth served by Viking Council is \$58.31, whereas the cost of housing a juvenile offender is \$100.00 per day.

Of course all the forementioned would hardly be possible without the adult volunteers who are the foundation of the Boy Scouts of America. Currently there are over 1.3 million men and women nationwide who, in the spirit of Robert Baden-Powell, graciously give their time and talents to ensure that the youth of society grow into well-adjusted adults. Adult volunteers touch the lives of young people by serving as excellent role models and teachers, as well as caring friends.

The Boy Scouts' objectives are defined in the "Aim of Scouting" as being character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. On the surface, these aims may seem simplistic, yet many have forgotten the importance of these principles. Thankfully, these principles continue to prosper in the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. President, for 88 years the Boy Scouts of America has been teaching the value of community, Nation, and Creator to our Nation's youth. This is truly grounds for celebration.●

#### AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT FLAG DESECRATION

● Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of Senate Joint Resolution 40, introduced yester-

day by my distinguished colleague from Utah, Senator ORRIN HATCH, proposing an amendment to the Constitution authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the American Flag.

From the birth of our nation, the Flag has represented all that is good and decent about our country. Whether it be the battlefields of Bunker Hill and Gettysburg, the trenches of Flanders Field, the shores of Normandy, the rugged terrain of Korea, the jungles of the Mekong, or the desert of Kuwait—the Stars and Stripes led young Americans into battle. Proud young soldiers would carry it high, and if they should fall another would be right there to pick up Old Glory and carry it forward. It may have been tattered by the battle and singed by fire of war, but the American flag burned as a guiding beacon of hope and freedom for our young men and women. For those who paid the ultimate price for our nation, the Flag blanketed their journey and graced their final rest place.

You see, Mr. President, the Flag is not just a piece of cloth. The "broad stripes and bright stars" shining through the "rockets' red glare" inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. It is a symbol so sacred to our nation that we teach our children not to let it touch the ground. It flies over our schools, our churches and synagogues, our courts, our seats of government and homes across America. The Pledge of Allegiance unites all Americans regardless of race, creed or color. The flag is not just a symbol of America, it is America.

Those who oppose this legislation say that it impinges on freedom of speech and violates our Constitution. In my view this is a hollow argument. There are many limits placed on "free speech," including limiting yelling "fire" in a crowded theater. Other freedoms of speech and expression are limited by our slander and libel laws.

In 1989 and 1990 the Supreme Court of this great nation struck down flag protection laws by narrow votes. The Court has an obligation to protect and preserve our fundamental rights as citizens. However the American people understand the difference between freedom of speech and "anything goes."

When our citizens disagree with our national policy, there are a number of options available to them other than destroying the American Flag to make their point. Let them protest, let them write to their newspaper, let them organize, let them march, let them shout to the rooftops—but we should not let them burn the Flag. Too many have died defending the Flag for us to allow it to be used in any way that does not honor their sacrifice.

Mr. President, in a day where too often we lament what has gone wrong with America, it's time to make a stand for decency, for honor and for pride in our nation. Just as the Flag has wrapped itself around the hearts and souls of our nation, let us now

wrap the protection of our Constitution around the Flag.●

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1998

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 11 a.m. on Monday, February 9, and immediately following the prayer the routine requests through the morning hour be granted, and that there then be a period for morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator KYL for 10 minutes, Senator BYRD for 20 minutes, and Senator HAGEL for 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at noon, the Senate resume consideration of the Satcher nomination for up to 6 hours of debate, as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will not be in session tomorrow, but will convene on Monday, as I have just indicated, February 9—although no rollcall votes will occur on Monday—so that the debate can go forward on the Satcher nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary of HHS and Surgeon General.

As a reminder to all Members, the next rollcall vote will occur then on invoking cloture on the Satcher nomination, if necessary, and I presume it will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, February 10. If cloture is invoked on that nomination, a second vote would occur immediately on the confirmation of the nomination. Also, a cloture motion was filed on the motion to proceed to the cloning legislation; therefore, that vote will occur on Tuesday as well.

#### RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 4 P.M. TODAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Record remain open until 4 p.m. today for Members to introduce legislation and to submit statements for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### INTERMODAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EFFICIENCY ACT RE-AUTHORIZATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, in conclusion, before I take the Senate out following the statement of Senator KENNEDY, I want to briefly comment on some statements that have been made today and yesterday here and in other arenas and forums. There are those saying we should immediately bring up the ISTEA highway bill.